Summary Indicators for country groupings

Sub-Saharan Africa	95	50
South Asia	62	64
East Asia and Pacific	23	72
Latin America and Caribbean	22	73
CEE/CIS	24	68
Industrialized countries	5	79
Developing countries	54	66
Least developed countries	90	55
World	49	68

SOURCE: (1) Extracts from "State of Word's Children 2008" brought out by UNICEF

* For India, data from the Sample Registration System of the Registrar General of India has been used, which is the official source for such estimates. Life Expectancy for India corresponding to the year 2003

Permanent cure for deadly diseases

†1607. SHRI VEER PAL SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is formulating any scheme for permanent cure of serious and deadly diseases such as AIDS, heptatitis, small-pox, malaria, dengue and chickungunya;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it would be formulated; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE)SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Small-pox has already been eradicated from the country. AIDS, hepatitis, dengue and chickungunya are due to viral infections and there is no permanent cure for them. Radical treatment of malaria is already available and being implemented under National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme.

Labelling of packaged food

1608. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a food label would be mandatory for all items giving details of their ingredients and the nutritional value;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the country had now overtaken the US as the diabetes capital of the world and was second in obesity, primarily because of the junk food eating habits and lack of physical activity in contrast to the fact that a large number of people were undernourished; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government notified *vide* notification GSR No. 491 (E) dated 21st August 2008 an amendment to the existing labelling provisions for pre-packaged foods so as to mention the name and percentage of ingoing ingredients in the food by weight or volumes as the case may be, regulatory provisions for claims which is emphasized on the label, complete nutritional information per 100 grams of the product, instructions for use including reconstitution to ensure correct utilization of food, the amount and/or type of fatty acids, the country of origin on case of imported foods etc. In view of the representations received from the industry expressing their difficulties in implementation of certain provisions of the amendment rules, the implementation of the said provisions have been deferred until the 20th May, 2008.

(c) and (d) There are few studies to indicate a positive correlation between consumption of junk food and obesity. Lack of physical activity is also one of the factors that lead to obesity. It is also a fact that large numbers of people are undernourished in our country. Both over-nutrition and under-nutrition are prevalent in our country. Under-nutrition is a multi-faceted problem which occurs due to combination of several factors such as inadequate intake of food, low birth weight, poor infant feeding practices, neglect of health of adolescent girls and pregnant women, lack of nutritional awareness, poverty leading to low purchasing power, poor socio-economic status of women, female illiteracy, high rate of population growth and low access of population to health services, education, safe drinking water, environmental sanitation, etc. Over-nutrition on the other hand is due to changing lifestyles, increased consumptions of fast foods and foods which are high in fat and sugars and lack of physical activity.

Regional centres of Indian Nursing Council

1609. DR. KESHAVA RAO:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Nursing Council is planning to set up regional centres to monitor the functioning of the State centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether his Ministry is considering Andhra Pradesh for setting up one of the regional centres; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) There is no proposal with the Indian Nursing Council to set up Regional centres to monitor the functioning of the State centres. However, under the XIth plan, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is proposing to help facilitate setting up of 24 Centres of Excellence in States which includes Andhra Pradesh also with the objective of offering courses in Ph.D. (Nursing) M.Sc. (Nursing), Continuing Education, Nurse Practitioner Course and Speciality Courses.